

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 /069 W
-----071134Z 096153 /12

O R 071007Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7753
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 4346

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH ELECTIONS PRODUCING STRONG PLURALITY FOR ECEVIT

REF: ANKARA 4338 (DTG 061550Z JUN 77) (NOTAL)

1. RETURNS FROM TURKEY'S JUNE 5 GENERAL ELECTION ARE
STILL INCONCLUSIVE, WITH 41 OF THE 450 SEATS IN THE LOWER
HOUSE UNDECIDED. BULENT ECEVIT AND HIS REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY (RPP) ARE WINNING A STRONG PLURALITY AND HAVE 202
CONFIRMED SEATS SO FAR. HOWEVER, THE RPP'S EARLY PROJECTIONS
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OF A MAJORITY (226 SEATS) HAVE SLIPPED WITH LATER RETURNS.
JUNE 7 NEWSPAPERS PROJECT, ON THE BASIS OF RETURNS AS OF
MIDNIGHT JUNE 6, THAT ECEVIT WILL WIN FROM 212 SEATS
(CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN) TO 222 SEATS (LEFTIST, PRO-ECEVIT
VATAN), WITH MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET PROJECTING 216.

2. IN LINE WITH PAST PRACTICE, PRESIDENT KORUTURK PROBABLY

WILL DESIGNATE ECEVIT, AS THE PLURALITY WINNER, TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. FIRST, HOWEVER, OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS MUST BE ANNOUNCED, WHICH MAY BE SOME TIME LATER THIS WEEK, AND THEN THE NEW PARLIAMENT MUST BE CONVENED AND SWORN IN WITHIN FIVE DAYS THEREAFTER. AGAIN IN LINE WITH PAST PRACTICE, THE PRESIDENT PROBABLY WILL ASK DEMIREL TO CONTINUE AS CARETAKER PRIME MINISTER UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED AND ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN BE TEMPORARILY INSTALLED WHILE IT SUBMITS ITS PROGRAM FOR A PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE (A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING).

3. ECEVIT ANNOUNCED LATE JUNE 6 THAT HE WAS READY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. SEPARATELY, HE SAID HE HOPED HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO FORM A COALITION. IN VIEW OF THE POOR SHOWING OF HIS MOST ACCEPTABLE POTENTIAL COALITION PARTNERS, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ONE SEAT) AND THE REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (THREE SEATS), AND THE PROJECTION THAT ONLY FIVE INDEPENDENTS WILL BE ELECTED, ECEVIT WILL FACE EVIDENT DIFFICULTIES IN GOVERNMENT FORMATION. IT SEEMS LIKELY HIS INITIAL EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON EITHER A MINORITY GOVERNMENT OR SOME FORM OF COALITION. IN EITHER CASE HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION SOMEWHAT BY ATTRACTING TRANSFERS FROM OTHER PARTIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, AT THIS POINT HIS SUCCESS IS NOT ASSURED AND IF HE FAILS, WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE REEMERGENCE OF A NEW DEMIREL COALITION SIMILAR TO TURKEY'S PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

4. IN HIS JUNE 6 STATEMENTS, ECEVIT LISTED THE PRIORITIES OF THE RPP AS RESTORATION OF PEACE AND ORDER, REACTIVATION OF THE RULE OF

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LAW, AND TACKLING TURKEY'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT US-TURKISH RELATIONS, HE SAID THAT HE ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO SMOOTH COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT STRESSED THAT EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED OF BOTH SIDES (REFTEL).

5. JUSTICE PARTY (JP) CHAIRMAN DEMIREL HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO CONCEDE. DEMIREL ASSERTED THAT A COALITION WILL HAVE TO BE FORMED TO GOVERN AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NEW COALITION CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN A SHORT TIME. WHILE CONFIRMING HIS BELIEF THAT TURKEY WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH A SINGLE PARTY GOVERNMENT, DEMIREL REMARKED THAT ANOTHER COALITION ERA HAS OPENED. IN A POST MORTEM ON THE DECISION TO SUPPORT THE EARLY ELECTIONS, THE JP CHAIRMAN STATED THAT HIS PARTY HAD SUPPORTED THE DECISION WITHOUT CONSIDERING VICTORY OR DEFEAT. HE SAID THAT THE JP WILL FULFILL WHATEVER NEW DUTY IS BESTOWED ON IT. NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHIEF TURKES EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT NO PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO GOVERN ALONE AND CLAIMED THAT HE ANTICIPATED THE

EMERGENCE OF ANOTHER NATIONALIST PARTY COALITION. (RESULTS
SO FAR SUGGEST THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CURRENT COALITION COULD
POSSIBLY STILL END UP WITH A MAJORITY OF SEATS AMONG THEM.)

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6. AS OF 0900 GMT JUNE 7, WITH VOTE COUNTING COMPLETE IN
59 OF TURKEY'S 67 PROVINCES, TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT)
ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING UNOFFICIAL RETURNS:

| | CONFIRMED SEATS SO FAR | PERCENTAGE OF VOTE |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| RUPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) | 202 | 41.29 |
| JUSTICE PARTY (JP) | 178 | 37.12 |

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|--------------------------------|----|------|
| NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) | 23 | 8.50 |
| NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) | 15 | 6.30 |
| REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR) | 3 | 1.89 |
| INDEPENDENTS | 3 | 2.53 |
| DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) | 1 | 1.34 |
| TURKISH UNITY PARTY (TUP) | - | 0.38 |
| TURKISH LABOR PARTY (TLP) | - | 0.14 |

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770202-0437
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770685/aaaacwev.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 4338
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2255501
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH ELECTIONS PRODUCING STRONG PLURALITY FOR ECEVIT
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc203984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009